

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) COMMUNE CHAIR

(71) We, VERNON & COMPANY (PULP PRODUCTS) LIMITED, British Company, of Slater Street, Bolton BL1 2HP, Lancashire, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:

This invention relates to commune chairs as used in the home, in hospitals and other places by invalids confined to their beds or to the immediate bedside area, and has for its object to provide an improved commune chair which will be more aesthetically acceptable for use as an ordinary chair when not in use as a commune, than heretofore.

Broadly, according to the invention, a commune chair assembly comprises a supporting frame, a seat having a medial aperture, a rigid bedpan support for being removably fitted in said aperture of the seat, said bedpan support being adapted to receive a bedpan of disposable fibre pulp, and a removable cover for said seat for fitting in place of the bedpan support when the latter is removed.

In use, with the rigid bedpan support removed and the seat cover fitted in its place, the chair is usable in conventional fashion and to all outward appearances is not distinguishable from a conventional chair as used for normal seating purposes. Preferably the seat cover is upholstered.

Preferably, said seat and the removable seat cover are provided with interfitting parts which positively locate the upholstered seat in position.

A commune chair assembly according to the invention may be in the form of a dining chair, an occasional chair, or an easy chair, and may be constructed to serve as part of a suite or set of chairs.

The invention is further described with the aid of the drawings accompanying the

Provisional Specification which illustrate by way of example only one embodiment.

In said drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective side elevation of a tubular frame chair according to the invention.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the chair of Figure 1 but with its seat cover removed, and

Figure 3 is an underneath plan view of the said seat cover removed from the chair of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 1 but with the seat cover replaced by a rigid support for a disposable bedpan, and

Figure 5 is a plan view of Figure 4.

Referring to said drawings, the chair comprises in this instance a tubular metal, e.g. steel, frame 10 which includes a base 12, leg members 13, horizontal seat support members 14, and back support members 15. Fixedly spanning the members 14 is a rigid seat 16, and secured to the members 15 is an upholstered back piece 17.

The seat 16 is arranged to detachably receive an upholstered cover 18 which is locatable in position on said seat 16 by means of relatively raised parts 16a of the support 16 which co-operate with relatively depressed, correspondingly shaped, parts 18a (Figure 3) provided on the under side of the cover 18. To facilitate correct location of the cover 18 on the seat 16 said seat is provided with arcuate slots 16b and the under side of the cover 18 with co-operating pegs 18b.

The seat 16 is formed with a bilobate medial aperture 16c as shown best in Figure 2. The aperture 16c is adapted to receive (see Figures 4 and 5) the correspondingly bilobate shaped base or receptacle portion 31 of a rigid bedpan support member 30, said receptacle portion being surrounded by a seat portion 32 having a downwardly extending skirt 33 adapted to sit upon the

seat 16. The bedpan support 30 is adapted to receive a disposable bedpan (usually referred to in the trade as an "insert" or "liner") composed of a fibrous pulp material which, after use, can together with its contents be macerated in known apparatus and consigned to a normal drainage system.

It will be seen that the invention provides a commode chair assembly which, when not in use as a commode, is indistinguishable from a normal chair. For example, in a hospital situation, the usual bedside chair could be a commode chair according to the present invention. Thus, each chair in addition to its use for seating purposes generally, is readily available for use as a commode by the simple removal of its upholstered seat cover and the insertion in the seat of a bedpan-support-cum-disposable bedpan.

Whilst the invention has herein been more particularly described with reference to a tubular frame chair without side arms, the invention as defined in the appended claims is not so restricted.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A commode chair assembly comprising a supporting frame, a seat having a medial aperture, a rigid bedpan support for being removably fitted in said aperture of the seat, said bedpan support being adapted to receive a bedpan liner of dis-

posable fibre pulp, and a removable cover for said seat for fitting in place of the bedpan support when the latter is removed.

2. A commode chair assembly, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said seat cover is upholstered, and the seat and the seat cover are provided with interfitting parts arranged to locate the seat cover in position.

3. A commode chair, as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said supporting frame is of tubular metal including a base, leg members, seat support members, and back support members.

4. A commode chair, as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the aperture of the seat is bilobate, and the rigid bedpan support has a correspondingly shaped bilogate receptacle portion for fitting within said aperture, the receptacle portion being surrounded by a seat portion having a downwardly extending skirt adapted to sit upon the seat.

5. A commode chair assembly, substantially as herein described with reference to the drawings accompanying the Provisional Specification.

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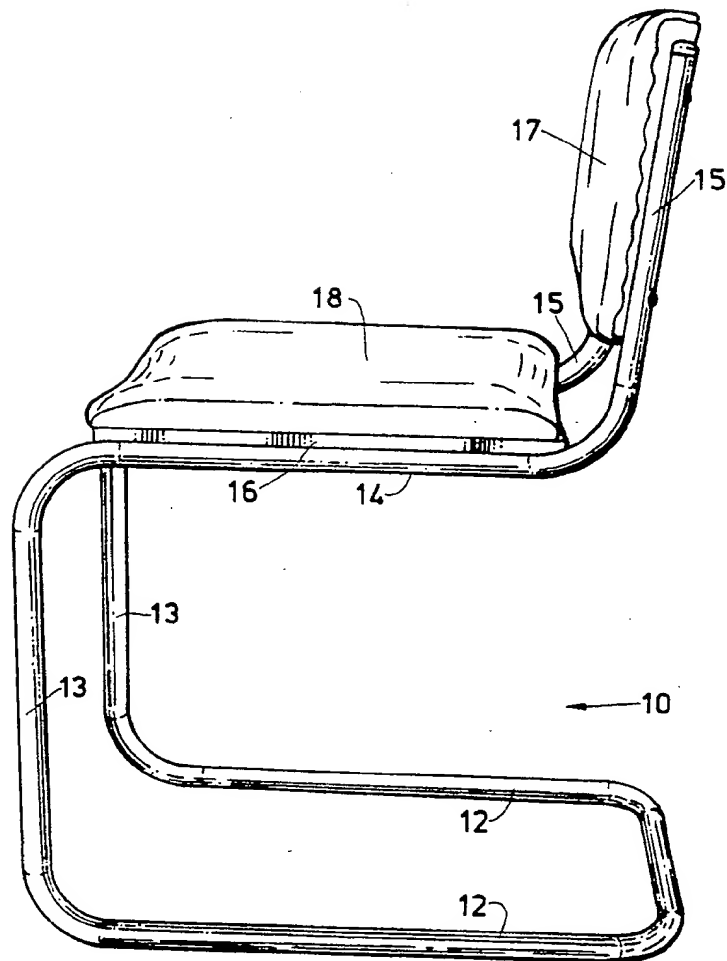
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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

5 SHEETS

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the Original on a reduced scale.

SHEET 1



—FIG. 1.—

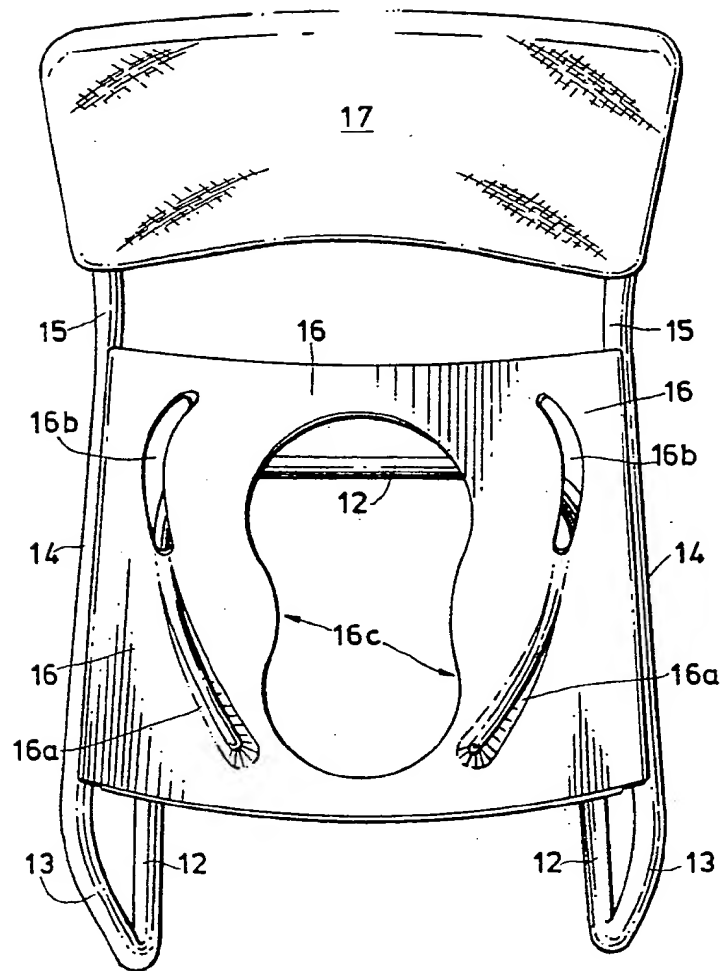
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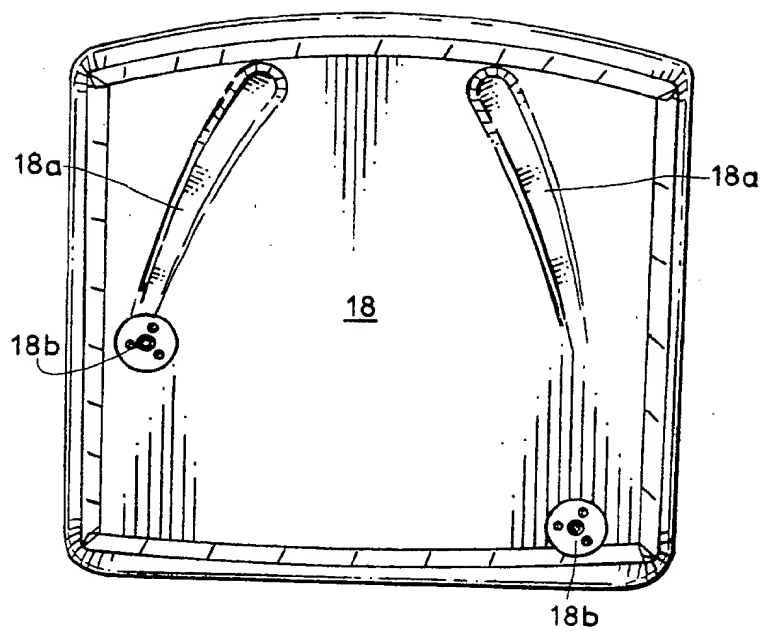
SHEET 2



--FIG. 2--

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SHEET 3



—FIG. 3.—

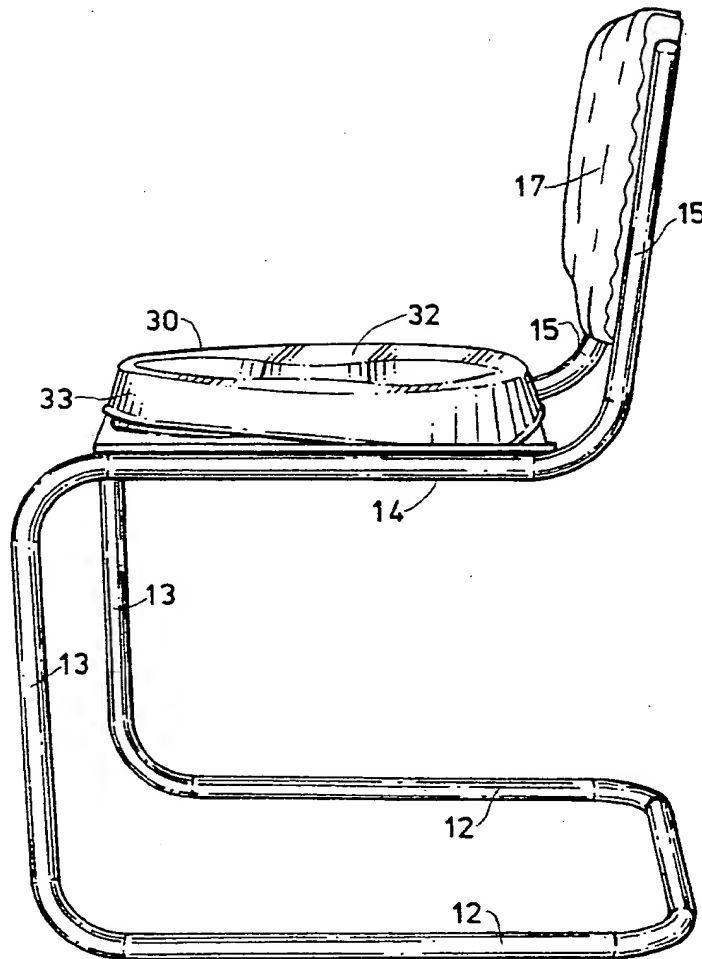
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SHEET 4



—FIG. 4.—

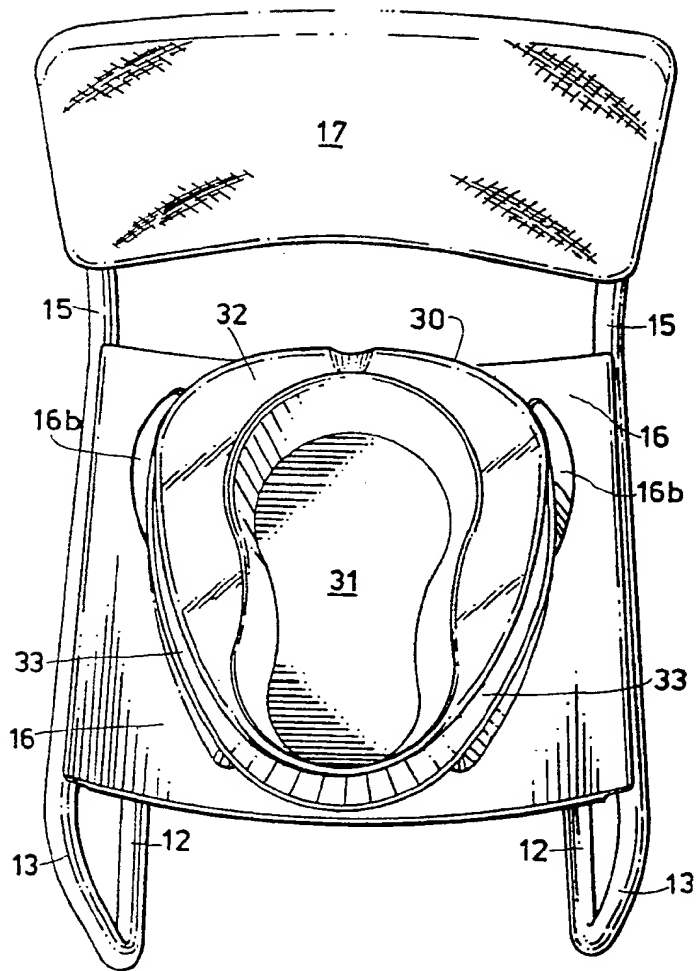
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SHEET 5



--FIG. 5.--

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